

MARINE SCIENCE THESES DATABASE

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ABSTRACT: The Thesis in Oceanography Database is comprised of 699 items from two Oceanographic Institutions, Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y de Educacion Superior de Ensenada (CICESE 1973-) and the School of Marine Science of the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC 1960-). This database is from the beginning of both institutions up to 1992.

The 600+ items are graduate and undergraduate theses. The records are in ASFI format, including abstracts. The database used is Micro Isis from UNESCO. The language is Spanish. The main objective of this project is to update the database "Theses in Marine Science" that in the first stage will provide updated information of marine science theses from the two institutions and invite oceanographic institutions from Mexico and Latin American countries to participate. This will be an ongoing project in order to promote and exchange important gray literature information of this region.

This project in its first stage will include the 950 thesis from 1993 up to 2003 from both institutions in order to update it. Second stage will be to invite the Latin American oceanographic institutions. We are looking into the possibility of translating the keywords into English in order to promote it within the IAMSLIC community.

MISSION

The main purpose of the database is to provide availability and promotion in a unified catalog of the marine science theses literature produced by the Universities, Research Centers and Oceanographic Institutions of Latin America, to the academic community, at an international level.

INTRODUCTION

The database was first conceived in the mid 1980s, by two visionary oceanographers, M.C. Claudia B. Farfan from CICESE (Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y Educacion

Superior de Ensenada), and Oc. Myra H. Pamplona from the Marine Science Faculty of the State University of Baja California. They collected the information and expanded some of the abstracts of the earlier theses produced. This was published first in print as the *Catálogo de Tesis en Oceanología de las Instituciones de Educación Superior de Baja California, México from 1960 to 1990*; they later published the 1992 updated electronic version using UNESCO's MICRO CDS ISIS, and the ASFIS thesaurus.

This database in electronic format is presently accessible on the CICESE library web site at <http://biblioteca.cicese.mx>

Our work is dedicated to the effort of these two women oceanographers and in memory of Oc. Mayra H. Pamplona.

The catalog is organized in two main subject fields "Biology, Ecology, Fisheries" and "Physical Aspects, Technology, Oceanic and Coastal Engineering". Within each field the documents were subdivided by thematic categories, subcategories and cross references, and include subject, taxonomic, geographic, and author indexes.

The thematic index contains descriptors authorized by ASFIS authority guides. These descriptors were translated into Spanish.

The ASFIS geographic code was not applied due to the fact that most of the studies were done in Mexican territorial waters.

The importance in continuing the database in a bibliographic format plus abstracts is that in the field of marine science in Latin America, most of the theses are in print; such is the case in CICESE and UABC. There is a need for a unified catalog of this bibliographic material in order to facilitate the retrieval of all the research done in this specific subject and geographic region.

At the undergraduate level of most of Latin American marine science schools it is a prerequisite to present a thesis in order to get the degree. Some of the research done in these theses is not published as articles in peer reviewed journals; therefore there is no promotion of this basic research. Such is the case of the University of Baja California, where the first marine science school of Mexico was established in 1960. The research in theses reflects the basic studies done in the region and is of basic importance.

We do not want to overlook the importance of theses in digital format, therefore we are including in the bibliographic citation the URL where the digital theses can be retrieved.

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

Phase 1: Update the database from 1993 up to the present with the CICESE and UABC theses. At present there are 699 records of theses from CICESE and UABC. There are 950 new records to be incorporated into the database.

Phase II: Elaboration of guidelines for information input and retrieval of the unified catalog, for participating institutions.

Phase III: Design a portal for the database.

Phase IV: Invite the Latin-American institutions to collaborate with the theses database, in order to promote resource sharing. We are also considering building a directory of institutions in marine science in Latin America, addressing the location of this information, either in catalogs or lists. It will also be necessary to form an editorial group for reviewing purposes.

Phase V: To promote the Marine Science Theses Database.

WHERE WILL THE DATABASE BE STORED?

At the moment the information is stored in MICRO CDS ISIS program. The procedures will be to modify the codes in the existing ISIS catalog into MARC format in order to standardize the catalog and to facilitate the migration of records into the database. We will review other software that can give us the best support for the information processing.

HOW CAN THE DOCUMENT BE RETRIEVED?

Included in the database there will be a directory of participating institutions for document retrieval and interlibrary loan purposes. There will be an agreement with the collaborating institutions in providing the document in print or electronic format; the end user will be responsible for the costs involved.

RECOMMENDATION

As a result of the research done of theses retrieval systems in digital format, we located the CYBERTESIS database produced by University of Chile and sponsored by UNESCO (www.cybertesis.net). This database already has participants from North America, Europe (Spain and France), and Latin America (Brazil, Chile and Peru). It follows the Open Archive Initiative, Dublin Core Metadata Initiative and Old Dominion University Digital Library Research Group. Cybertesis is a powerful access tool that allows simultaneous searches through one web interface and retrieves the electronic theses stored in the different university servers

We see Cybertesis as a system that can be used by the participant libraries of the marine science database, with the great advantage that the systems is searchable in Spanish, English, and French.

REFERENCES

- Farfán, C. and Myra H. Pamplona-Salazar. 1992. *Catalogo de Tesis en Oceanología de las Instituciones de Educación Superior de Baja California, México. 1960-1990*. Centro de Investigación Científica y Educación Superior de Ensenada.